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aligns the semi-circular cross-sectional tubular cells 22 and 24 to insure that a patient will not contact a support surface as the bladders 12 are selectively inflated and deflated. (See the '292 patent, column 8, lines 45-53.)

2. Vibration means may also be included and associated with the fluid filling the top cells to vibrate the top cells. (See the '292 patent, column 5, lines 56-58.)

3. The inflatable bladders 20 are interconnected with a series of tubes 26 which are interconnected to . . . a pump 18, a vibrator 30 controlled by a control panel 32. (See the '292 patent, column 8, lines 54 to 56.)

4. Also, the vibrator 30 may be activated to vibrate the bladders 20 to gently massage the patient. (See the '292 patent, column 8, lines 65 to 67.)

5. [Claim] 9. A patient torso support and rotating system according to claim 6, including vibration means associated with the fluids filling the top cells to vibrate the top cells.

Figure 2 is the only figure in the '292 patent that illustrates vibrator 30. A first conduit interconnects vibrator 30 to pump 18 and a second conduit [26] interconnects vibrator 30 to inflatable bladders 20. More importantly, vibrator 30 is electrically connected to the control panel. *We were able to conclude the second conduit was numbered 26 based on Haas' statement set forth in above-identified paragraph numbered 3.*

As illustrated and described in the '292 patent, the vibrator 30 is not positioned immediately adjacent to and/or within any inflatable bladder as currently claimed. Instead the vibrator 30 is, in our opinion, positioned within box 50 positioned at the foot board – see figures 1 and 6 – which is far removed from the claimed invention and the vibrating fluid is directed exclusively to the top cells 24. In other words, the vibrating cells directly contact the patient which is contrary to claimed invention – the inflation control unit does not allow the at least one bladder to become deflated to a point wherein the vibrational pad device contacts the user. That means Haas teaches away from the claimed invention.

We have that opinion because the pump 18 (a) is positioned in box 50 and (b) directs fluid to top bladder 22 through conduit 26 from outlet 68 of the box 50. As clearly stated by Haas, conduit 26 also directs the vibrating fluid to the top bladder 22 through conduit 26. As such, conduit 26 extends from outlet 68 of the box 50, which means Haas discloses, suggests and teaches its vibrating pad is the bladder that contacts the patient, which is contrary to the claimed invention. That means Haas teaches away from having a vibrating pad positioned immediately adjacent to and/or within any inflatable bladder that a patient is positioned thereon as claimed.

We reviewed the other cited references. It is our opinion those references do not disclose the claimed invention.

Other amendments were made to correct typographical errors.

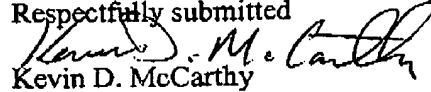
This response is considered to be timely filed of the mailing date of this application. A form 2038 for \$200 is included – fee for two additional small entity independent claims. If any

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additional fees are due, it is respectfully requested that the USPTO contact us immediately to pay the fees.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted



Kevin D. McCarthy

Reg. No. 35,278

Roach, Brown, McCarthy & Gruber, P.C.
1620 Liberty Building - 420 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14202